

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)494/09-10(04)

Ref : CB2/PL/HS

Panel on Health Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 14 December 2009**

Private hospital development

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the past discussions by the Panel on Health Services (the Panel) on private hospital development.

Background

2. One of the healthcare reform initiatives set out in the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document entitled "Your Health, Your Life" published on 13 March 2008 was to actively promote and facilitate the development of private healthcare services, with a view to increasing the overall capacity of the healthcare system in Hong Kong and addressing the imbalance between the public and private sector.

3. At present, there are a total of 13 private hospitals in Hong Kong, providing about 3 700 in-patient beds as at end of 2008. Based on the information provided by the private sector in mid-2008 on their existing development projects, it is expected that the number of in-patients beds in private hospitals will increase to about 3 900 in 2011.

Past discussions

4. The Chief Executive (CE) announced in his 2008-2009 Policy Address on 15 October 2008 that the Government was identifying suitable sites, initially including the Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Po and North Lantau areas, to facilitate the development of private hospitals.

5. At the special meeting of the Panel on 17 October 2008, a question was raised on the premium that would be charged for private hospital use. The Administration advised that full market premium would be charged for commercial land uses, whereas nominal or concessionary premium would normally be charged for community uses because of their non-profit making nature. In order to promote the

development of private healthcare, the Administration would formulate suitable land policies to ensure that the premium charged for the use of the land was fair to both the private hospitals and the community.

6. Question was also raised as to whether the proposed North Lantau Hospital (NLH) project would be developed as a private hospital. The Administration advised that the NLH project would be carried out in two phases. Phase one would be a 160-bed public hospital to be built by the Government and the relevant preparatory work was underway. The Hospital Authority would commission a consultant at the end of 2008 to carry out a study on the possibility of introducing a public-private partnership model in the phase two development of the NLH project.

7. The CE announced in his 2009-2010 Policy Address on 14 October 2009 that the Government would launch an Expression of Interest exercise by end 2009 to solicit market interest in developing private hospitals in the four reserved sites at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Po and Lantau. Based on the expressions of interest received, the Government would make appropriate land disposal arrangements which could encourage innovation, enhance the quality of services, increase the transparency of fees and charges, and ensure the provision of quality private medical services to the public.

8. At the special meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2009, Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau urged the Administration to explore other means, such as allowing private hospitals to be set up in industrial buildings, to further increase the overall capacity of private medical services.

Relevant papers

9. Members are invited to access the Legislative Council website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>) for details of the relevant papers and minutes of the meetings.